

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

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Tuesday, May 5, 2009

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

GOP REBRANDING



FILE - In this June 19, 2008 file photo, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush responds to questions at the Excellence in Action conference, a national summit on education reform, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

See **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

SPORTS NEWS

JAMES



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James poses with his trophy after being named the NBA Most Valuable Player during a ceremony at James' alma mater, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, in Akron, Ohio on Monday, May 4, 2009.

See Sports Today



Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:

US\$ 54.47

From Tokyo to Aruba

Tamiko & Tadashi tie the knot on Aruba's 'Dream Beach of the World'



Photo by Julia Renfro

Tokyo, Japan tied the knot at Town Hall and a beach ceremony followed later that evening at Bucuti Resort on April 28, 2009 with the serene back drop of Aruba's horizon.

The lovebirds met in 2002, Tamiko joined the company as an executive secretary, Tadashi, a web designer at a public relations company owned by his father called SCINICS. Tadashi's father introduced them to one another and the chemistry worked right without using the lab equipment. As Co-workers they developed a friendship and fell in love a year later.

The proposal took place while



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

Wedding Exclusive
By Angela Munzenhofer

BUCUTI- Tamiko Komatsu & Tadashi Kishimoto, of

on vacation in Hawaii at sunset at Waimanalo beach.

Continued on page 15



**WEDNESDAY
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Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.



ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?
A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



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PALM BEACH - Red Sail Sports' catamaran will take you on an unforgettable journey: the Mexican Dinner Sail. Your trip includes a Live Mariachi Band, Mexican Food and an open bar with Tequila, Coronitas and Margaritas. The Mexican Party Sails on Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans.

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day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's leading dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsail-aruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.

Traditional Music with Tipico Jara, Gets Fresh Spin



Paseo Herencia – During a recent concert at Mr Jazz by Chucho Valdes a traditional little-known local band, occupied center stage.

Tipico Jara whose members are amateur musicians mostly from the village of Savaneta stole the show as the warm-up act of the Datapanik concert production.

Datapanik band-leader Michael Lampe invited the band to participate. He reports that his uncle is the cuarta player – a special four string guitar, typical to Aruba's folklore music, and that the ensemble plays regularly for family gatherings.

Michael decided it would be cool to expand the band's fan base and audience and to feature them on a grand stage during a formal concert.

Ticket holders agreed, as Tipico Jara delivered two sets of sweet, melodious, innocent and funny regional compositions, on



accordion, cuarta, guitar, wiri and tamboor. good choice for the concert which was also recorded live for a musical album.

It was a great success, and a

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BRUNCH - LUNCH - MEETINGS - DINE

National Library Holds Book Fair

Queens Day book and Rummage sale attract many people



by Jan Falcone

We just celebrated the Dutch Queen's birthday, on April 30. It is always a special holiday in the Dutch Kingdom, and one of the ways Aruba celebrated it this year was to have a book day, where books and other items are on sale. There were quite a few customers at the library, and many came away with books in several languages.

The library has books in different languages - it has quite an extensive collection and a good place to do research on Aruba. It is located on Madurostraat in Oranjestad, and is presently hosting an art exhibit of local artist Padu del Caribe. If you are in town, be sure to stop by and have a look at this exhibit and do a little reading!

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The Westin Resort, Aruba reveals plans for the

Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival V



PALM BEACH – The upcoming Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival in its 5th edition will take off on Thursday May 21st, 2009 with the Taste of Aruba, Best Chef Competition, at the Pago Pago Restaurant at 7 p.m.

Music will be provided by Daniel Aguirre's Jazz band and the special art exhibit will feature the island's best artists with works available for viewing and sale.

The Wine & Food Pairing is open to the public and the admission is US\$30 per person at the door. Pre-sale tickets are available at the concierge desk for \$25 per person.

As part of the festival activities that day, a Trade Fair will be organized by local and international Wine and Liquor Purveyors, in honor of their local clients, by-invitations only.

Sessions will take place from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m., while the art exhibit will be available for viewing and sale, all day.

On Saturday, May 23rd, 2009, the highlight of the festival is the elegant and unique Capturing the Champagne Sparkle, from 7 p.m. to midnight, the Final Champagne event which will highlight dinner with South America's most famous celebrity chef, Colombian-born Harry Sasson Tchira.

The evening will be sponsored by Moet Chandon and Dom

Perignon, matching the chef's east-west creations with delectable, bottomless flutes of Champagne.

Tickets for a limited number of participants are available in the hotel lobby at the concierge desk at US\$140 per person.

About Harry Sasson Tchira

Chef Harry Sasson Tchira is the graduate of Colegio Anglo Colombiano. He cooked for a while for the Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje SENA, and spent six years in Vancouver, Canada, working as sous chef at Joe Fortes and the Westin Bayshore Hotel. Going back to Colombia in the 90s he opened H. Sasson Wok & Satay Bar, which he has been operating successfully since in additional to other brands

he developed, employing 400 people in six different restaurants, namely Balzac, Club Colombia, H&B Bakeries & Harry's Bar, boasting 1,000 seats, as well as a line of sauces and dressings sold in supermarkets, a book whose second edition was translated into English, a weekly newspaper column in El Espectador and a popular international television program on Canal Gourmet y Discovery Travel & Living. The proceeds from the sale of his books are earmarked to Fundación Corazón Verde and the Hogar Nueva Granada. He also fundraises for the foundations by coordinating two gastronomic festivals each year. Always a man with a social conscience he is an active benefactor for children's charities

and support an adoption home, a university and a kid cardio clinic. His flag ship restaurant H. Sasson Wok & Satay Bar is recognized for excellence by the international Chaine des Rotisseurs.

Festival Sponsors include: Sponsors and partners: the Westin Resort, Aruba

Local & international liquor purveyors: Aruba Trading Company, Pepia Est, Romar Trading, Playa Liquor, Licores Aruba, and Arion Wine Company.

Important wineries from the USA and food purveyors: Caribbean Overseas NV and Frasa NV, Aruba's Chefs, the US Poultry Federation, the US Meat Export Federation, the Buckhead Beef Company

Asparagus Festival at Papillon

Appetizers:

Creamy asparagus soup \$8

Asparagus Tempura and smoked salmon served with salad and a garlic dressing. \$15

Asparagus a la Flamande = classic Flemish. White asparagus served with chopped egg and nutmeg, melted butter and parsley. \$17

Entrées:

Pan-fried salmon filet with asparagus duo, white and green asparagus, mashed potato and hollandaise sauce. \$28

Tenderloin served with a risotto of asparagus and red port sauce. White and green Asparagus. \$30

Papillon
RESTAURANT

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Best Pages Aruba conducts introductions at the Marine's Camp



Savaneta – Traditionally the Marinierskazerne Savaneta Aruba, home to Her Majesty's the Dutch Corps Mariniers hosts an open house on Queen's Birthday with demonstrations, a flea market and fund raising benefiting the local community.

The Aruban military and coast guard both attract many families that day for an informative fun experience, and this year, one of the most popular exhibitors was the group representing ArubaBestPages, the new website launched just a few days ago.

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The team of ArubaBestPages, Theo Valize and Joa Beke, showed off their breakthrough website based on Google-Earth images, which show every street address and every house number in Aruba.

The team invited visitors to the website on-line, and explained that it was designed to provide a free island guide, a business directory and an address finder for both locals and visitors.

The new website stirred a lot of interest and guests were surfing the net, right at the camp, in the shade under the camouflage nets.

Valize stated that everyone is welcome to www.ArubaBestPages.com, which is available for individual registration and business owners.

After the initial on-line registration takes off, he added, the web site will launch a mobile version for hand-held devices, a Papiamento version, and create the ability to connect to personal links such as face book and my space, and also include GPS navigation.

ArubaBestPages was developed by Milo v/d Linden and Theo Valize, of Innova NV, the logo was conceived by Janet Konings, inspired by the Aruban flag.

The sales team is made up of Joa Beke and Angelica Reppas, sales@arubabestpages.com or tel.: 593 8686. You may find anything from a real estate agency to hotels and rum shops on www.ArubaBestPages.com

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At the Pelican Bar

Patriots Cheerleaders Rocking the Divi in Aruba



EAGLE BEACH — The Patriots' Cheerleaders were on the island for a full week, last week, staying at the Mega Divi Resort shooting their 2010 swimsuit calendar.

On Thursday they gave a show around the pool deck of the resort and the Pelican Bar. The event was facilitated by hospitality executive Francis Ridderstap and included some fun activities besides traditional cheerleading.

The pre-show warm up presented a Trivial Pursuit game in which the audience had to guess which of the cheerleaders was a Valedictorian, and who was the owner of a shoe collection worth over US\$22,000, who was a finalist on "American Idol," who could juggle — including a professional demonstration — who was a "River Dancer," and more. The girls entertained a crowd made up of hotel guests and employees, and stopped for



photo opportunities dressed in their cheerleading uniforms. event at the Mega Divi Resort. Pictured here the pool side





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EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units dis-

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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax.

Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderfull view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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Fun, Friends... and Volleyball
www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com

PALM BEACH - Sunday May 10th the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is organizing for it's 3rd anniversary Aruba's Annual Beach Volleyball Tournament.

Locals and tourists are teaming up to participate in this funfilled tournament that takes place on the white powered sand of Palm Beach right in front of Bugaloe Beach Bar. There will be 3 team categories FUN (6 players),

ADVANCED (4 players) and PRO (2 players). In a relaxed ambiance DJ Jeroen will play his favorite tunes while you can enjoy special prices on Amstel Bright. There will also be a full program for the kids. You are welcome to visit, even if you are not playing.

Bugaloe is located at
De Palm Pier on
Palm Beach between
RIU Palace and
Radisson Resort.

The after party takes place at Bugaloe Beach Bar where the band Marisela & Aquarius will perform live on stage. Put the date in your chalender today!

Registration

It's already possible to sign up. At www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com you will find all the details and also a registration form.



J. E. Irausquin Blvd 79 at De Palm Pier • Tel (297) 5862233 • Fax (297) 5862234 • Email info@bugaloe.com

Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse also offering Spa Cuisine



PALM BEACH -- The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Matt Boland and restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status -- a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing flavors with citrus, spice and

herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains.

"We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," adds Boland, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs.

"The Sunset Grille kitchen," Boland reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banters, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine."

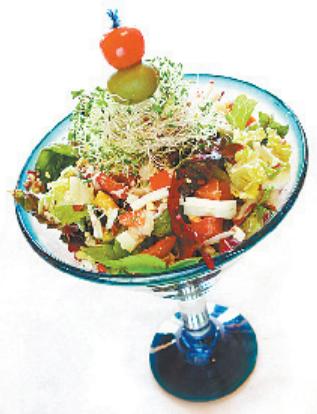
Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred;" the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the



popular Soba Noodles.

The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Boland explains.

Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □

The Coconut Trading Co., is Stocked with Gorgeous Gifts



Palm Beach -- The Coconut Trading Company displays gifts personally selected by owner Jodi Tobman, a Boston native and longtime Aruba resident, and you are invited to discover extraordinary treasures handcrafted by skilled artisans and colorfully displayed in a beach house ambiance in the lobby of the Marriott Ocean Club, and at a second just-opened location at the Village on Palm Beach. Every corner of the store

attracts the eye with a dazzling assortment of gifts and home accents that command attention; strikingly designed photo frames, candle holders and snuffers, serving pieces to dress every picnic table up and dazzling glass accents: a virtual potpourri of tropical and distinctive gifts to grace any home.

The stores also stock a fine selection of creative sterling jewelry, handcrafted with precious gems, sea glass, turquoise and fresh water

pearls, which can be found artfully arranged, beckoning to be worn. Find extraordinary gifts for all of your family members and friends, there's something for everyone on your list, not to forget yourself!

Popular with repeat visitors and locals, The Coconut Trading Co. has become the premier stop for the perfect gift, with great prices and convenient nighttime shopping hours. Shipping is available, for larger pieces, offered with a drop ship program at a nominal fee. The Coconut Trading Co., located in the Marriott Ocean Club lobby. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays until 7 p.m. The Coconut Trading Company, located at the Village on Palm Beach. Open daily from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Email: orders@salamanderholdings.com



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Arab forum tackles a Washington taboo

Washington – This story began – as so many do – with a lunch.

While attending a conference in 2004 in the tiny Gulf state of Qatar, I was invited to break bread with the ruler, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and his wife, Sheikha Mozah. As a bewildering array of courses came and went, the royal couple talked of their vision for reform and openness and asked me if I had any suggestions.

It was the start of a journey, now entering its sixth year, that led to the formation of the first global free speech forum in the Middle East – The Doha Debates – and last month to a highly controversial session in Washington.

My suggestion to Qatar's ruler was to stage a series of town hall debates in the country, get people arguing without fear of censorship or repercussions and tackle the hottest political topics in the Arab and Islamic worlds. The key condition was that my team would retain full editorial independence – with no interference of any kind from the state.

Half a decade later, that condition has been respected in full. Moreover, hundreds of young Arabs from across the region have talked publicly and for the first time in their lives about such issues as war, extremism, Arab disunity, and human rights.

They have embraced the concept that words are the only acceptable weapons in a civilized society; they have formed their own debating teams and come to our events, ready to challenge the likes of Shimon Peres, Bill Clinton, and senior Hamas official Mahmoud Al Zahar.

It may be a cliché in the West to talk of debates as the court of public opinion. But it's not a

cliché in the Arab world, where free speech is the rarest of all commodities – and where there is simply no other possibility of holding key political figures and thought leaders to account. Never mind if those speakers tell the truth or lie their heads off – at least they are forced to listen to the public's criticism and obliged to justify their positions.

If you can stage debates like that in the Middle East, you'd have thought it would be easy to do the same in the US. You'd have thought wrong.

"Why would we write you a blank check to come to our campus and say whatever you want?" asked one prominent – and incredulous – East Coast academic.

"Why would I accept less freedom than I get in Qatar?" I replied.

It was a telling start to a struggle over free speech in America that I simply never had expected.

Few observers felt we would survive Washington. Media colleagues and PR experts told us well before we arrived that they scented blood – ours – and that after our debate March 25 at Georgetown University, we would be hammered by lobbyists, pundits, and hostile hacks.

Whichever way it went, they said, our reputation was finished.

The direct cause of our predicted demise was nothing more than my insistence on debating Israel's relationship with the US in a city that quakes at the slightest prospect of upsetting Jerusalem or criticizing its actions in public.

We didn't set out to upset anyone. But we did debate the robust motion "that this house believes

it's time for the US administration to get tough on Israel," in the belief that it would air opinions, not often heard in the US, and provoke a timely discussion of the Obama administration's approach to the region.

As it happened, we came, we debated – and lo and behold – not a single dog even snarled at us! No sign, either, of the much-vaunted Jewish lobby, apparently poised to strike at anyone who dared question Israel's peace-loving credentials.

I won't pretend that all our participants enjoyed the event. The motion's opponents, Harvard law Prof. Alan Dershowitz and former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Dore Gold, lost graciously enough to the other side, Michael Scheuer, who had hunted Osama bin Laden for the Central Intelligence Agency, and Avraham Burg, former speaker of the Israeli Knesset. But at times the evening must have seemed to them a like a rough session at the dentist: a lot of painful scraping, probing, and drilling.

We do that eight times a year in that roughest of neighborhoods, the Middle East, without any threat of being savaged by anyone. And now we have done it in a highly charged Washington – and got away with it.

I was surprised to learn that freedom of this kind is considered such a risky proposition – or "blank check" in the US. But unlike most other checks these days, this one really does pay dividends. Keep writing them, America.

Tim Sebastian, an author and award-winning television journalist, is the chairman of the Doha Debates.

Padu celebrates birthday with friends/family

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by Jan Falcone
“Padu del Caribe”, or Juan Chabaya Lampe as he was known when he came into the world all of

89 years ago, celebrated his birthday recently at his home amongst family & friends. Padu, a gifted artist, writer, poet and composer is the person who wrote the national anthem when Aruba became separated from the other Dutch islands 20-odd years ago. “Aruba Dushi Terra” is the song, sung at all events where Aruba’s national anthem is called for. He is known mostly for his songs written over the years in his native language of Papiamento.

Padu’s daughter, Vivian, organized this tremendous, music-filled fiesta complete with many well-known singers and musicians who came to play for Padu, including Vivian’s husband, Victor Samuel, “El Duke”.

At the entrance to Padu’s home that evening was a “Caha di Orgel” an old fashioned organ that has to be wound by hand to make it work.

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12



Traditional Aruban songs were played - the house was filled with music and people singing and dancing the entire evening. Padu enjoyed the evening very much and appreciated all of his friends and music colleagues, but one highlight of the evening is when Dr. Doris Salas de Molina from the school of Humanities of the University of Zulia in Maracaibo, Venezuela, awarded Padu with an Honorary Doctorate for his many contributions to Dutch Caribbean culture.

Aruba is waiting for his very special 90th B'day next year - perhaps it will be a very big celebration! In the meantime be sure to check out Padu's art exhibit at the National Library, which will be on view until May 15. Scenes from Aruba and the world have been painted recently, as Padu continues to be creative despite his age.



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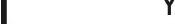


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From Tokyo to Aruba

Tamiko & Tadashi tie the knot on Aruba's 'Dream Beach of the World'



Wedding Exclusive
By Angela Munzenhofer

BUCUTI- Tamiko Komatsu & Tadashi Kishimoto, of Tokyo, Japan tied the knot at Town Hall and a beach ceremony followed later that evening at Bucuti Resort on April 28, 2009 with the serene back drop of Aruba's horizon.

The lovebirds met in 2002, Tamiko joined the company as an executive secretary, Tadashi, a web designer at a public relations company owned by his father called SCINICS. Tadashi's father introduced them to one another and the chemistry worked right without using the lab equipment. As Co-workers they developed a friendship and fell in love a year later. The proposal took place while on vacation in Hawaii at sunset at Waimanalo beach. They planned an Aruba wedding because they wanted something different than the usual and flew 18 hours with delays to get to their wedding destination of Aruba.

"As everyone already knows, Japan is a nation with a long history and numerous traditional cultures, and now an economic power and technology. With over 127.76 million people living in an area of 377.915 km, a country with distinct four seasons, it is a shame that most people in Japan have no idea where Aruba is, with our words of wisdom and insight we will share Aruba with everyone and be Bucuti's personal Ambassador," replied Tamiko. Nashette Wouters orchestrated the beautiful wedding ceremony that took place on Eagle Beach at Bucuti Resorts "Dream Beach of the World". The romantic ceremony included an exchange of vows and rings; Tamiko was radiant as she walked down the aisle. They both had a glow of forever love as they glared into each other's eyes and kissed as they became one under Aruba's sun. Tamiko's bridal gown was redesigned of a kimono which was a family heritage of her grandmother; the dress was full of elements

for good luck..

Immediately following the ceremony Julia Renfro of Bella Aruba Photography took the newlyweds for a romantic photo shoot along the ocean with the romantic sound of crashing waves with a gorgeous sunset and a starlit evening "We are so pleased to have had our wedding in Aruba and every moment was special, we put our trust in Nashette and everything followed through perfect, she was our guiding light", We are celebrating our reception on May 30, 2009 and are excited to show our guests the wonderful photos of our terrific wedding," replied the newlyweds. The following day Angela Munzenhofer of Bella Aruba took the newlyweds on a "Once in a lifetime photo shoot of Aruba's splendid tropical island.

**Congratulations from
Aruba Today**
**Photos by Julia Renfro &
Angela Munzenhofer**

Fishes and More Delivers the freshest every day

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PALM BEACH – Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. It is said once you taste their fishes, you will come back for more.

Owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink work exceptionally hard to ensure the restaurant is at its best for everyone to enjoy. The courteous

and friendly staff will pamper you from 4 pm till 10.30pm, every day of the week.

Come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps.

Fishes and More is for everyone. For those who like to try something different, for those who can't shake the seafood addiction, for those who want to eat a great piece of veal, or pasta, everyone is more than welcome.

Arawak Gardens is right across from the hotels. We invite you to take a little walk to a grand dinner!



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More than just the best pizza on the island...

Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Neatly tucked away on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories.

Today's highlight of the menu is the Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary,

oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a

at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$14. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your din-

owned eatery. Victor Nataf and his son Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



true bite of seventh heaven. The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting

ning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

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On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Obama announces plan to close U.S. tax loopholes

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Barack Obama proposed Monday to raise taxes on the overseas profits of U.S. companies and to go after evaders who abuse offshore tax shelters.

In announcing a series of steps aimed at overhauling the U.S. tax code, Obama complained that existing law makes it possible to "pay lower taxes if you create a job in Bangalore, India, than if you create one in Buffalo, New York."

The proposal will be a hard sell in Congress. Sen. Max Baucus, chairman of the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, offered a tepid response.

"Further study is needed to assess the impact of this plan on U.S. businesses," said Baucus, a Democrat. "I want to make certain that our tax policies are fair and support the global competitiveness of U.S. businesses."

The president said he wants to prevent U.S. companies from deferring tax payments by keeping profits in foreign countries rather than recording them at home and called for more transparency in bank accounts that Americans hold in notorious tax havens like the Cayman Islands.

"If financial institutions won't cooperate with us, we will assume that they are sheltering money in tax havens and act accordingly," Obama said.

Many provisions of the complicated and much-maligned tax code in fact are worded in ways that allow people to legally cut corners. And the code is filled, likewise, with language that in many



President Barack Obama, speaks about tax reform as Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, left, and Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service Douglas Shulman right, look on in the Grand Foyer of the White House in Washington, Monday, May 4, 2009. Associated Press

circumstances authorizes legal tax end-arounds, if not pure avoidance.

During much of his long campaign for the White House, Obama campaigned for an overhaul and simplification of the code. At the White House event Monday, he said his new proposals would generate an average of about \$21 billion a year in new taxes. That would amount to only about 2 percent of next year's projected deficit of \$1.2 trillion, however.

Under his plan, companies would not be able to write off domestic expenses for generating profits abroad. The goal is to reduce the incentive for U.S. companies to base all or part of their operations in other countries. Obama said the government also is hiring nearly 800 new agents to enforce the U.S. tax code.

Congress is expected to resist significant portions of Obama's plan.

The administration is not seeking to repeal all overseas tax benefits.

Continued on next page



Worker at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention sits at a station in the emergency operations center as the CDC monitors swine flu development Monday April 27, 2009, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

FDA moves against swine flu fraud

By ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration has found at least 20 Web sites that may be fraudulently marketing products with claims that they guard against or cure swine flu, an agency official said Monday.

The FDA publicly rebuked one such site Monday — <http://rebuildermedical.com> — for offering a \$199 "SilverCure Swine Flu Protection Pack" that includes shampoo, lotion, conditioner and soap that supposedly deposit traces of silver.

Continued on page 3

Iraq insists on U.S. troops leaving cities by June 30

ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's government Monday ruled out allowing U.S. combat troops to remain in Iraqi cities after the June 30 deadline for their withdrawal, despite concern that Iraqi forces cannot cope with the security challenge following a resurgence of bombings in recent weeks.

Asking U.S. forces to stay in the cities, including volatile Mosul in the north, would be embarrassing for Iraq's prime minister, who has staked his political future on claims that the country has turned the corner in the war against Sunni and Shiite extremists. The departure of heavily armed combat troops from

bases inside the cities is important psychologically to many Iraqis, who are eager to regain control of their country after six years of war and U.S. military occupation.

U.S. officials played down the Iraqi decision, with Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman saying it's up to the Iraqi government to request an extension of the U.S. presence in the cities and "we intend to fully abide by" terms of the security agreement.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, told reporters Monday that violence had not risen to a level that would force a change in the withdrawal schedule.

Continued on page 6

Tax loopholes

Continued from front page

Obama called his proposal “a downpayment on the larger tax reform we need to make our tax system simpler and fairer and more efficient for individuals and corporations.”

“Nobody likes paying taxes, particularly in times of economic stress,” he said. “But most Americans meet their responsibilities because they understand that it’s an obligation of citizenship, necessary to pay the costs of our common defense and our mutual well-being.”

The current tax code, Obama said, makes it too easy for “a small number of individuals and companies to abuse overseas tax havens to avoid paying any taxes at all.”

Obama said he was willing to make permanent a research tax credit that was to expire at the end of the year and is popular with businesses.

Official estimate that making the tax credits permanent would cost taxpayers \$74.5 billion over the next decade.

But administration aides said 75 percent of those tax credits cover the cost of workers’ wages.

Under existing laws, companies with operations overseas pay U.S. taxes only if they bring the profits back to the United States.

If they keep the profits offshore, they can defer paying taxes indefinitely. Obama’s plan, which would take effect in 2011, would change that.



President Barack Obama and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, make statements on tax reform, Monday, May 4, 2009, in the Grand Foyer of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press



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Swine fraud

Continued from front page

"Everything you need to protect yourself and family," the Web site says. But the FDA says no silver-based products have been approved for swine flu treatment or prevention, so it's illegal to claim such benefits.

Alyson Saben, who heads a new FDA swine flu consumer fraud team, told The Associated Press in an interview that ReBuilderMedical Technologies Inc. will have 48 hours to take corrective action or face criminal or regulatory action from the FDA.

A phone message and e-mail to the company were not immediately returned.

Officials on the new swine fraud team working over the weekend found at least 20 other sites peddling products for swine flu accompanied

by potentially fraudulent claims, Saben said.

She declined to identify the other sites until the agency investigates their claims and makes a decision about their accuracy. But she said they were things like antiviral medications being sold without a doctor's prescription, dietary supplements with exaggerated claims, and flu diagnostic and protection kits.

"Unfortunately we see that these deceptive products are being offered, and by purveyors of products that take advantage of the public's concerns about the virus," Saben said. "FDA will consider whatever means are necessary and available to us to immediately stop the marketing of unapproved, uncleared or unauthorized products."

The FDA is asking members of the public to notify the

agency when they encounter potentially fraudulent products. Tips can be submitted at: <http://www.fda.gov/oci/flucontact.html> Forms of silver like ionic silver or colloidal silver — none of them approved for swine flu — are nonetheless easy to find online accompanied by claims that they fight or prevent the new flu. A Web site called <http://www.swineflugone.com> is selling a 2 oz. spritzer bottle with a concoction of ionic silver, echinacea, eucalyptus and spearmint and claiming it will "Stop Swine Flu in Its Tracks."

Another site, <http://www.flu-watch.org>, claims to disclose "What the CDC won't tell you that just may save your life." Colloidal silver is offered as a lifesaving cure. Other sites are selling the antiviral Tamiflu apparently without requiring a doctors' prescriptions, or expensive



this photograph provided by Face The Nation, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, left, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Acting Director Dr. Richard Besser appear together on "Face the Nation" Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the CBS studios in Washington.

Associated Press

kits of surgical masks, gloves, and anti-bacterial wipes and gels.

Surgical masks and gloves are medical devices and must have FDA approval. But even if the items themselves being sold are FDA-approved, the claims being made about them may not be accurate, Saben said.

The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention does not recommend widespread use of face masks, saying only that they may be useful — along with other measures — for people who may be in close contact with people may have flu. Surgical gloves are only recommended for people like first responders having direct contact with ill people.

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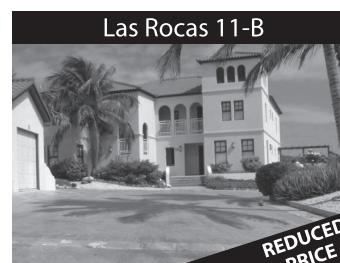
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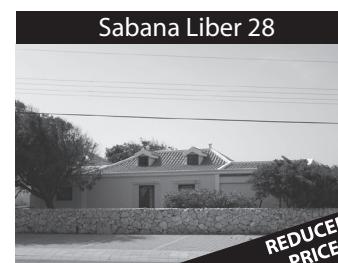
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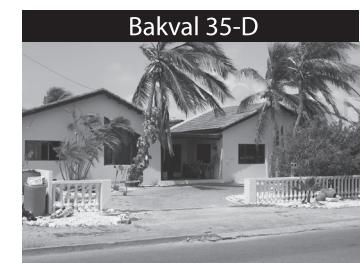
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Democrats: pay for wars, not for closing prison

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Amid fears that terror suspects could be brought to the United States, Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives rebuffed on Monday the Obama administration's request for \$50 million to relocate prisoners from the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, a Democrat, dropped the request from a \$94.2 billion bill to finance military and diplomatic efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan until late this year.

The prisoner relocation allotment would have been a minute portion of President Barack Obama's request, but small as it is it has inflamed Congress and given Republicans an opening with which to bash Obama. Many Democrats also were skittish about the political danger of voting to bring terror suspects into the United States.

At the same time, Obey served notice that Obama's move to boost troop levels and increase the tempo of military operations in Afghanistan had better show results or else he would rethink his support of the effort.

The bill, which was released to selected lawmakers Monday, registers about \$9 billion more than Obama's \$84.9 billion request, reflecting additional money for procurement of cargo planes, armored combat vehicles, helicopters and other items. About \$3 billion was added above Obama's \$7 billion request for foreign aid accounts, including security aid to Israel, funding to help Mexico fight drug cartels and \$100 million to fight AIDS and other diseases in places including Haiti and Congo.

Obey also boosted the administration's \$1.5 billion



Attorney General Eric Holder, center, arrives to testify behind House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. David Obey, D-Wisc., right, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, April 23, 2009.

Associated Press

request to fight influenza to \$2 billion.

The administration has yet to develop a plan to carry out Obama's executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay facility by early next year. The Pentagon has not said how many of the 240 or so detainees still there would be transferred to the United States or where they would be held. About 50 to 100 detainees would be shipped to this country, according to Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

Last week, Gates told lawmakers that the \$50 million request for relocating the detainees was simply a "plug in the budget" that was just "a hedge that would allow us to get started if some construction is needed to be able to accommodate those detainees."

That degree of uncertainty, combined with not-in-my-backyard politics, made it an easy call for Obey to omit the request.

"When they have a plan, they're welcome to come

back and talk to us about it," Obey said.

Top Republicans such as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell have suggested that holding terror detainees in the United States would represent a security threat.

"The American people want to keep the terrorists at Guantanamo out of their neighborhoods and off of the battlefield," McConnell said. He urged Obama to reconsider his time line for emptying the Guantanamo Bay prison just as he has reconsidered his deadline for ceasing combat operations in Iraq.

While funding Obama's request to send more troops and equipment to Afghanistan, Obey also made clear that there is limited patience among Democrats controlling Congress for an open-ended commitment to that war effort. Obey attached language requiring the administration to issue a report by February

on whether the weak governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan are doing enough to warrant continued support.

"I am extremely dubious about the ability of the administration to achieve its ends in that operation," Obey said. "It's an extremely uphill battle."

Democrats have heeded Obama's demand to keep the bill largely free of domestic add-ons, although lawmakers including Rep. John Murtha and Rep. Nita Lowey, both Obama's Democratic party-mates, succeeded in swelling spending for military and foreign aid accounts.

Murtha had hoped to use the bill to advance \$8 billion to \$9 billion in extras for the military, such as Stryker armored combat vehicles and C-17 cargo planes.

Pressure from Speaker Nancy Pelosi, senior Democrat in the House, and other party leaders forced Murtha to cut from 15 to eight the number of

C-17 planes from the Boeing Co. Eight of the planes would cost \$2.2 billion. Boeing was unsuccessful in winning new F-18 fighters.

There also is \$904 million for C-130 cargo planes and money for four F-22 advanced fighters, which the White House requested. Funding for F-22s would be cut off after that.

Foreign aid financing includes accelerating \$555 million for Israel and \$360 million for Egypt that was to have been provided later in the year.

Obama's request, including money to send thousands more troops to Afghanistan, would push the costs of the two wars to almost \$1 trillion since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks against the United States, according to the Congressional Research Service.

While the Iraq war by far gets the most money, the request reflects a shift in focus from Iraq to Afghanistan.

Teen son escapes Fla. family slaying

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press Writer

LAKELAND, Fla. — His father and stepmother had fought before, and 13-year-old Nathan Bellar had no reason to believe their latest exchange would turn violent.

After an argument on Sunday, though, the teen watched his father gun down the woman as she tried to take her sons to their grandparents'. Nathan ran back through the house and heard his father shoot his younger brothers, but the gunfire wasn't over.

His father chased him through the cluttered garage and took aim, but tripped on a bicycle before he could get off another fatal shot. As Nathan ran screaming to the safety of a neighbor's house, the father killed himself in the front lawn.

The teen was staying with his grandparents Monday, a day after investigators said Troy Ryan Bellar, 34, shot and killed his wife, Wendy Bellar, 31, and their 5-month-old and 8-year-old sons. Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said the surviving teen was quiet and cried some after the shootings but also helped detectives piece together the deadly sequence of events. "His entire family is gone," Judd said.

"What he witnessed, what he was engaged in, most people in this world will never witness," the sheriff later added.

Wendy Bellar was carrying 5-month-old Zack James Bellar out the front door in a car seat when Nathan Bellar saw his father follow them with a 7.62 mm rifle, Judd said. She intended to take the infant and her 8-year-old son, Ryan Patrick Bellar, to her in-laws for the night but was shot down on the screen porch.

Nathan told deputies the earlier argument gave no indication that the evening would turn violent. Investigators said they had not found any suicide note, and a motive remained unclear for the killings in Lakeland, between Tampa and Orlando.

"They argued a little bit, but nothing significant," Judd said. It wasn't the first argument for the couple who'd been married for 10 years. According to an arrest affidavit, Troy Bellar accused his wife of hitting, punching and scratching him in March. Wendy Bellar

was arrested on suspicion of domestic battery, and the case was pending.

Sunday night's gunfire sent panicked neighbors to their phones to dial 911. One of them told an emergency dispatcher she saw the teen "running around in the garage with his hands up, and like screaming," according to a recording of the call.

After Nathan safely reached the home of another neighbor, that woman relayed information from him to a 911 dispatcher. "A boy's here at my house that lives there and says that his dad shot his mom and there's a baby there," the neighbor, who was not identified, told a 911 operator.

"I know this is going to be very hard for you to ask him," the operator said. "Is his mom still alive?"

After an exchange between the neighbor and the boy, the woman told the operator: "She got shot in the head."

Deputies arrived at a horrific scene: Wendy Bellar and her two young sons dead from gunshot wounds in their screened-in porch and their father lifeless

in the front yard. A preliminary investigation indicates that more than 10 rounds were fired in all.

"It left veteran detectives and crime scene technicians that do this for a living stunned last night," Judd said.

Detectives praised the surviving teen for being helpful.

"He cried some, as you can imagine," Judd said. "As he should have done. And he was very quiet. And we were very delicate with him."

Investigators say Troy Bellar ran a home remodeling and handyman business, which next-door neighbor Doug Lane said seemed to do a steady business despite the economic downturn.

"He said the remodeling had dropped off, but he was doing repair work for commercial apartments and that sort of thing," Lane said. "He said that he was staying busy."

Judd couldn't say if the family was experiencing any financial difficulties.

Records show the husband had been arrested twice in the county, on suspicion of armed robbery and aggravated battery

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This is an undated photo released by the Polk County, Fla., Sheriff's Department of Troy Ryan Bellar. Authorities say Bellar killed his wife and two of his sons and then killed himself.

Associated Press

in 1994 and for driving under the influence in 1999. He was convicted of petit/retail theft in the first case and of driving under the influence in the second.

But if the couple argued before, Lane said he never heard

them. He said he saw them sitting outside together Sunday evening, giving no indication that anything was wrong.

"Troy and Wendy were good, good neighbors," Lane said. "Fortunate to know them. Just an awful shock."

WACKY wahoos'



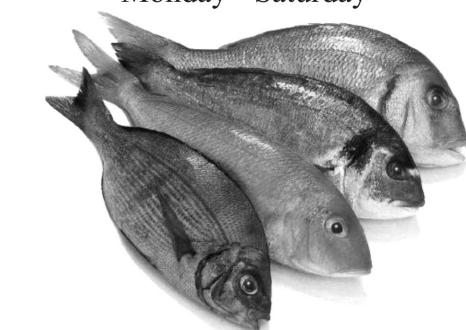
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Iraq

Continued from front page

Last month, however, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. Raymond Odierno, said he was worried that Iraqi forces won't be ready to assume full responsibility for Mosul by the end of June.

Privately, some U.S. officers fear the Iraqis may lose control of Mosul within a few months after American forces pull out of Iraq's third largest city, where al-Qaida and other Sunni militants remain active. The U.S.-Iraq security agreement that took effect this year calls for American combat troops to leave urban areas by the end of June, with all U.S. forces out of the country by the end of 2011.

But a series of high-profile bombings has raised questions whether Iraqi forces can assume more security responsibilities, especially in Mosul.

Nationwide, at least 451 people were killed in political violence last month, compared with 335 in March, 288 in February and 242 in January, according to an Associated Press tally.

Even in Baghdad, where violence is down sharply from levels of two years ago, attacks are continuing.

On Monday, two car bombs exploded almost simultaneously near the Oil Ministry and a police academy, killing at least three people and wounding eight.

Although those casualties



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, left, passes a portrait of himself as he arrives at a meeting at the Interior Ministry in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, April 19, 2009. Maliki met with security officials to review their achievements.

Associated Press

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PG	HANNAH MONTANA	daily: 5:35	3:20	late show:	NEW
PG-13	FAST & FURIOUS	daily: 7:50	10:00	late show: 12:15	
PG	RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN	daily: 5:50	8:00	10:10	late show: 12:20
PG-13	X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE	daily: 5:15	7:30	9:50	late show: 12:10

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PG-13	THE SOLOIST	daily: 5:10	7:25	9:40	late show: 11:55
PG	HANNAH MONTANA	daily: 5:45	3:25	late show:	NEW
PG-13	FAST & FURIOUS	daily: 7:50	10:00	late show: 12:10	
PG	RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN	daily: 5:20	7:35	9:45	late show: 11:50
PG	MONSTERS VS ALIENS	daily: 5:40	7:50	9:55	late show: 12:00
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were relatively low, the attack was significant because it occurred in a sensitive, well-guarded area in the heart of the Iraqi capital.

The security agreement allows Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to request an extension of the deadlines if he feels Iraqi forces need help. But the prime minister's spokesman said the withdrawal deadlines, including the June 30 date, were "non-extendable."

"These dates cannot be extended and this is consistent with the transfer and handover of responsibility to Iraqi security forces," spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said in a statement.

Kurdish officials would prefer to keep U.S. troops in Mosul after the deadline.

"I have doubts about security and stability in Mosul," Kurdish politician Saadi Ahmed Pera said. "Therefore, U.S. forces should stay in Mosul until all the pending problems among political groups in the city are solved."

However, many other key Iraqi politicians, including the newly elected leadership in Mosul, oppose keeping U.S. combat troops in urban areas after the June deadline.

Al-Maliki, a Shiite, needs the support of the Sunni leadership

in Mosul as he prepares for national elections by the end of the year.

The new governor of the Mosul area told the AP on Monday that the departure of U.S. troops from the city will actually reduce violence, since much of it is directed at the Americans.

"A U.S. withdrawal will reduce the number of targets," Gov. Atheel al-Nujaifi said. "We believe it's important for

U.S. troops to stay in camps outside the cities to provide help only if needed."

The requirement to leave the cities applies only to combat troops and not to trainers, advisers and others in noncombat roles. The agreement does not preclude combat soldiers from patrolling in Baghdad, Mosul and other cities from bases outside the city limits.

But prominent Shiite lawmaker Abbas al-Bayati said extending the June 30 deadline would "send the wrong signal to the Iraqi people" that the Americans might remain in the country indefinitely.

"Thus both sides must stand together to fulfill the withdrawal timetable," he said.

U.S. combat troops largely pulled out of many cities in 2005 and 2006 but returned a year later as part of the U.S. troop surge that was designed to protect civilians from Shiite and Sunni extremists living in their neighborhoods.

This time, U.S. and Iraqi officials are gambling that Iraqi security forces are better trained and equipped to prevent the return of extremists than they were years ago. Extending the deadline would also call into question al-Maliki's claim that his government has set the country on the road to stability — despite the occasional spike in violence.

On Monday, al-Maliki told an audience in Paris that he would not allow Iraq to be used as a "base for any terrorist organization" and that the country was ready for foreign investment.

Nevertheless, U.S. officials believe security in Iraq remains fragile because the various religious and ethnic groups have still not agreed on power-sharing arrangements necessary for long-term stability.

Gates seeking to reassure Gulf on outreach to Iran

LARA JAKES

Associated Press Writer

CAIRO (AP) — The top U.S. defense official cautioned Monday that the Obama administration's quest to bolster relations with Tehran most likely will be met at first by "a closed fist."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates is on a delicate mission to soothe Mideast allies' concerns about American efforts to open diplomatic relations with Iran.

Gates arrived in Cairo on the first leg of a Mideast tour that will include Saudi Arabia. He said part of his mission this week will be to assure the Saudis, and other Mideast allies, that any U.S. gesture toward Tehran will be for the purpose of improving security throughout the region.

Building diplomacy with Iran "will not be at the expense of our long-term relationships with Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states that have been our partners and friends for decades," Gates told

reporters aboard a military jet headed to Cairo.

A second U.S. official said the U.S. is only "at first base" with Tehran and that diplomatic deals aimed at scaling back tensions over Iran's nuclear program were still premature. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the issue more candidly.

Another crucial issue for Gates on this trip will be negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. He will meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo early Tuesday. Gates has credited Egypt for working as an intermediary between the two sides.

On the U.S. feelers to Iran, Gates acknowledged that there are likely "concerns in the region that may draw on an exaggerated sense of what's possible. And I just think it's important to reassure our friends and allies in the region that while we're willing to reach out to the Iranians, as the president said, with an



U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, second left, arrives at Cairo's international airport, Monday May 4, 2009, the first stop on a Mideast tour that will include Saudi Arabia. Gates is on a delicate mission, seeking to reassure U.S. allies in the Persian Gulf region that efforts by Washington to reach out to Iran will not come at their expense. Others are unidentified.

Associated Press

open hand, I think everybody in the administration, from the president on down, is pretty realistic and will be pretty tough-minded if we still encounter a closed fist."

Gates flies to Riyadh, the Saudi capital, on Tuesday. He also noted concerns throughout the Mideast about Iran's influence in Baghdad, and said they could be staved off if more Arab nations opened embassies or otherwise became more involved in Iraq.

Gates praised Egypt, for example, for having "taken some serious steps forward to re-engage."

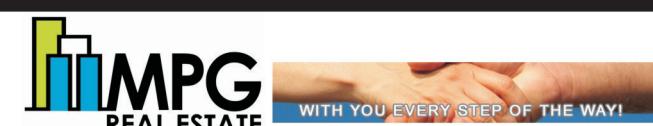
Critics of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki accuse him of forging ties with fellow Shiites who are allied with Iran. The issue has been a flashpoint for Iraq's Sunnis, who, under Saddam Hussein, fought Iran decades ago.

Iraqi Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi urged Arab countries to increase their involvement in Iraq by reopening embassies, making official visits and increasing trade ties.

"Arab countries must read the new strategic scene in Iraq. They have to open up and extend bridges with Iraq,"

al-Hashemi told reporters following talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II in Amman. Gates said discussions in Riyadh would include U.S. efforts to have Yemeni

d detainees now being held at the Navy prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, rehabilitated in Saudi facilities. An estimated 100 of the 241 Guantanamo detainees are Yemeni.



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Judge orders release of Guantanamo prisoner

NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Monday ordered a Yemeni man released from Guantanamo Bay after seven years' detention.

U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler says the United States should take all necessary diplomatic steps to release Alla Ali Bin Ali Ahmed. He was picked up seven years ago by Pakistani forces in a prayer house that the United States said was run by a high-ranking al-Qaida operative.

Other Guantanamo detainees have been ordered released by the courts but remain at the prison because no other country will accept them.

The judge gave the United States until June 15 to report back on the status of his release. Justice Department spokesman Dean Boyd said the decision is under review and that he can't comment yet on whether the government will appeal.

The United States argued that Ahmed, held as detainee 692, was associated with al-Qaida and the Taliban. Prosecutors said he traveled to Faisalabad, Pakistan, in October 2001 and stayed at an al-Qaida guesthouse for about four months before being captured during a raid on the house in March 2002.

Ahmed's attorneys argued he was not a member of al-Qaida or any terrorist group and had no involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. They said he did not participate in any armed conflict at any time or attempt to harm any Americans before he was picked up.

Nepal's prime minister resigns amid power struggle

BINAJ GURUBACHARYA

Associated Press Writer

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)

— The former guerrilla leader who became Nepal's prime minister last year has resigned after a power struggle with the president,

and his party vowed to launch mass protests and shut down parliament.

The resignation Monday threw the impoverished Himalayan nation into turmoil as political leaders scrambled to adjust and

security officials prepared for large demonstrations.

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal made the announcement on television Monday afternoon, one day after his attempt to fire the army chief was blocked by President Ram Baran Yadav, who belongs to the main opposition party and officially leads the army.

In his resignation speech, Dahal accused Yadav of "a fatal attack on the infant democracy."

"The unconstitutional and undemocratic move by the president has pushed the country toward a serious political crisis," Dahal said. "The president has no power to act alone without prior approval of the Cabinet on such matters."

He said he stepped down "to create a conducive environment and save the peace process."

Nepal's Maoists fought a bloody 10-year war against the government before joining the political mainstream in 2006, and then winning the most votes during elections last year that helped bring an end to the Himalayan country's centuries-old monarchy.

The Maoists vowed Monday to launch demonstrations and shut down the government in protest of the president's actions.

"We have decided to begin mass protests ... and stall parliament until the president takes back his decision," the Maoists' party spokesman Nath Sharma said.

The party has deep support in rural Nepal and would likely be able to gather tens of thousands of people in the streets of Katmandu and other cities.

The former rebel leader



Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal makes a speech about his resignation, in Katmandu, Nepal, Monday, May 4, 2009. Dahal resigned Monday following a confrontation with the president over the dismissal of the army chief - a move that had prompted several key parties to quit the country's first elected government.

Associated Press

— whose nom de guerre was "Prachanda," or "the fierce one" — remains as controversial as he is unpredictable.

Many see Dahal and the Maoists as revolutionary heroes who helped end the monarchy and bring democratic elections to Nepal.

Others, however, blame them for the chronic power outages, severe fuel shortages and rising food prices that have made life in this remote nation especially difficult in recent months.

Home Ministry official Navin Ghimire said security forces were preparing to deal with potential unrest.

"We are expecting trouble and are prepared to stop violence in the streets. Policemen are on high alert and will be mobilized throughout the capital," Ghimire said.

Authorities announced a ban on protests in key parts of Katmandu, including areas around the president's residence and office. Police in riot gear were deployed across the city.

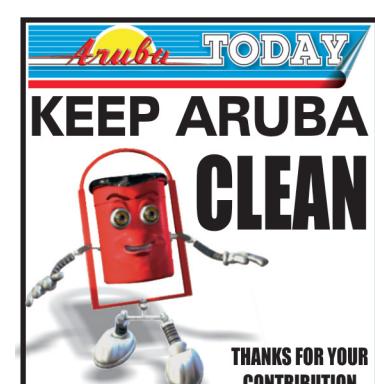
The dispute between Dahal and Yadav centered on the Maoists' former fighters who remain restricted to U.N.-monitored barracks under a peace accord. Dahal wanted the guerrillas freed and

integrated into the military, as prescribed under a U.N.-brokered peace agreement. But army chief Rookmangud Katawal resisted those efforts and sparred repeatedly with the government.

Dahal, who took office in August, fired Katawal on Sunday, prompting a key political party to withdraw from the Maoist-led ruling coalition. Hours later, Yadav reversed the decision — provoking Dahal's resignation.

Dahal's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) has the most members in the national assembly but does not hold a majority, and needs the support of smaller parties to stay in control of the government.

The Maoist's main coalition partner, the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist Leninist), withdrew from the coalition Sunday and other parties were reportedly contemplating doing the same.



Survey says French excel at eating, sleeping

By ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — The French are living up to their image as lovers of food and can add a new love to the mix, sleep, according to a survey released Monday. In fact, the French excel at the two leisure activities, spending more time at table and in bed than many other nations.

The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development looked at the use of leisure time among 18 of its 30 member countries.

Norwegians spend the most time at leisure, just over a quarter of their day, while at the low end, Mexicans spend just 16 percent of their time having fun.

The French still win in the sleeping and eating categories, spending on average nearly 9 hours a day in bed. For the French, leisure continues in the waking hours, with more than 2 hours a day spent eating and drinking — nearly twice as much time at the table as Americans, Canadians or Mexicans.

Americans also like their sleep, spending some 8.5 hours a day doing just that.

Despite the moderate amount of time Americans spend eating each day — about an hour and a quarter — U.S. obesity rates are the highest in the 30-member OECD with 34 percent of the American population with a Body Mass Index, or BMI, over the critical 30 mark. The lowest obesity rates are found in Korea, followed by Japan, with less than 4 percent of the population with a BMI over 30.

The Koreans followed by the Japanese clock in at the low end of the sleep spectrum, getting 7.8 hours a day with the Japanese not far behind.

The profiles on the use of leisure time were constructed by the OECD using 2006 data from the 18 member countries for which up to date surveys on use of time were available.

Television ranks high among leisure activities in Japan — where it takes up 55 percent of free time, compared to a low of 25 percent for New Zealanders.

The Turks are the most sociable population. They spend more than 35 percent of their time entertaining, compared to an OECD average of 11 percent.

Swine flu leaves Southern Hemisphere out in cold

ALAN CLENDENNING

Associated Press Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — The Southern Hemisphere has been mostly spared in the swine flu epidemic. That could change when winter starts in coming weeks with no vaccine in place, leaving half the planet out in the cold.

So far, the most affected nations have been in North America and Europe, which are heading into summer. But flu is spread more easily in the winter, and it's already fall down south. Experts fear public health systems could be overwhelmed — especially if swine flu and regular flu collide in major urban populations.

"You have this risk of an additional virus that could essentially cause two outbreaks at once," Dr. Jon Andrus said at the Pan American Health Organization's headquarters in Washington.

There's also a chance that the two flus could collide and mutate into a new strain that is more contagious and dangerous.

"We have a concern there might be some sort of reassortment and



A man and a woman wearing masks as a precaution against swine flu wait for relatives arriving from the US at the Sao Paulo international airport, Monday, May 4, 2009. The swine flu epidemic has largely spared the Southern Hemisphere.

Associated Press

that's something we'll be paying special attention to," World Health Organization spokesman Dick Thompson said.

Flu spreads more readily during the winter because people

congregate indoors as the weather gets colder, increasing the opportunity for the virus to hop from person to person, said Raina MacIntyre, public health director at the University of New

South Wales in Australia. Colder temperatures also may make it easier for the virus to infect people.

"The highest peaks of influenza activity occur in winter," MacIntyre said. "For us in the Southern Hemisphere, it's particularly concerning."

And while New Zealand is the only southern nation with confirmed swine flu cases, "it's almost inevitable that it will come to Australia," she said. Health officials in Brazil also say it's a near-certainty swine flu will hit Latin America's largest nation, where there are 25 suspected cases but none confirmed so far. Humans have only limited natural immunity to this new blend of bird, pig and human viruses, but the strain has killed relatively few people in its current form compared to traditional flu, which kills about 36,000 people each year in the U.S. and more than 250,000 worldwide.

The timing is particularly challenging for vaccine makers. A vaccine for swine flu is still months from being produced, and will likely be available just as flu season is ending in southern countries.

"The vaccine won't come in time for South America," said Dr. Gonzalo Vecina of Sao Paulo's prominent Hospital Sírio-Libanês.

In addition, many companies may switch to making swine flu vaccine instead of seasonal flu vaccine, jeopardizing the southern countries' regular flu vaccine stocks. That could mean

fewer seasonal flu vaccines available for next year's Southern Hemisphere winter.

"This is a concern we are working on," Andrus said. "We want to prevent it from being a potential barrier to getting it to the people who need it most."

Even in normal years, vaccine makers don't have the capacity to make enough courses for more than a fraction of the world's population.

Some experts think health officials in Southern Hemisphere countries should be more concerned with seasonal flu than with swine flu.

John Mackenzie, a flu expert at Curtin University in Australia, said countries should focus on regular flu vaccines for high risk populations, including the elderly and those with chronic illnesses, since this swine flu appears relatively mild so far.

"Governments have to step up their actions to protect their populations, especially in the absence of a (swine flu) vaccine," Thompson said. "Latin American countries may have a somewhat stronger surveillance system than in Africa. Africa's going to need some additional support and surveillance."

In Africa, which has yet to confirm a swine flu case, an outbreak during traditional flu season will make diagnosing and treating the two viruses a challenge, said Barry Schoub, director of South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases.

Even in the absence of cases, officials are preparing. O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, the gateway to the region handling millions of travelers each year, has plans to get a thermal image detection system running to check passengers for fever. A supply of masks has been provided to that airport and others, as well.

Hospitals have been given guidelines on how to handle suspected cases. South Africa, the richest country in the region, is poised to assist its neighbors should they need help with testing or treatment.

South Africa has stockpiled about 100,000 courses of the antiviral drug Tamiflu, which appears to help people afflicted with swine flu, and has access to more if needed, Schoub said.

Other countries said they're well-prepared, too. Australia has a stockpile of 8.7 million courses of Tamiflu and Relenza to treat its population of 22 million, MacIntyre said.

Dictatorship-era official reappears in Paraguay

PEDRO SERVIN

Associated Press Writer

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — A former dictatorship-era official considered a brutal torturer by human rights groups has made a surprise return to Paraguay, where he faces six pending trials for the disappearance and killings of government opponents in the 1970s and 1980s.

Minister Sabino Montanaro, who served as interior minister under ex-dictator Alfredo Stroessner, arrived in Asuncion early Friday after nearly two decades of self-imposed exile in Honduras, his lawyer said.

Attorney Luis Troche did not explain why Montanaro decided to return but painted a picture of an ailing, aged man coming back to his native land.

Montanaro, 86, suffers from a fractured hip, Parkinson's disease, a form of pneumonia and arteriosclerosis, Troche said Monday.

Officials said Montanaro was being treated in a police hospital, but it was not clear whether he had been taken into custody.

Montanaro was interior minister for two decades under Stroessner. Human rights groups say the dictatorship was part of a regional network of right-wing military governments that abducted, tortured and "disappeared" thousands of suspected leftist dissidents during the so-called Dirty War.

Paraguayan human rights activist Luis Alfonso Resck called Montanaro a "a brutal torturer."

When a military coup toppled the dictatorship in 1989, Montanaro sought refuge in the Honduran consulate in Asuncion. Days later he arrived in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, where he lived until last week.

His unexpected return could give Paraguay the chance to move forward with the pending prosecutions.

Judge Arnaldo Fleitas said Monday he had "ordered a psychiatric exam to determine (Montanaro's) mental state — whether he is in condition to appear before the court in the six pending trials against him for the torture, disappearance and death of dissidents."

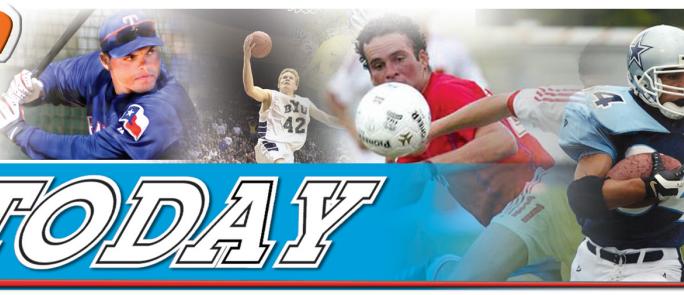
The Paraguayan government also expressed irritation at Honduras for not alerting them to Montanaro's travel plans, and said it was considering lodging a formal protest.

"Montanaro should not have been able to leave Honduras so easily holding a diplomatic passport that expired in 1997," Foreign Minister Hector Lacognata told reporters Monday.

Paraguay sought for years to question Stroessner about "disappearances" during the dictatorship, but he died in exile in Brazil in 2006 at the age of 93 without facing trial.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



LeBron James easily takes NBA MVP

TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Unstoppable at both ends of the floor this NBA season, LeBron James claimed the league Most Valuable Player on Monday, receiving the award in the high school gym where he first made his name. The Cleveland Cavaliers star won what some expected to be a close vote in a slam dunk. He received 109 of a possible 121 first-place votes to easily outdistance Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers. James totaled 1,172 points in balloting by media members in the U.S. and Canada.

Bryant, last year's winner, got two first-place votes and finished with 698 points. Miami guard Dwyane Wade

was third with 680 points and was named first on seven ballots. Orlando center Dwight Howard (328) was fourth followed by New Orleans guard Chris Paul (192).

James is the first Cavaliers player to win the award. He averaged 28.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 7.2 assists this season, his sixth as a pro. He also finished second in voting for defensive player of the year, making him perhaps the league's most dominant two-way player since Michael Jordan.

"You look at the guys who have won this award — Michael Jordan, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Dr. J, Oscar Robertson.

Continued on page 12



Cleveland Cavaliers LeBron James shares a laugh with his head coach Mike Brown before accepting the NBA Most Valuable Player award during a ceremony at James' alma mater, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, in Akron, Ohio on Monday, May 4, 2009. Associated Press



Venus Williams, of United States, returns the ball to Czech Republic's Lucie Safarova during their match at the Italian Rome Masters tennis tournament in Rome, Monday, May 4, 2009. Williams won 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Associated Press

ALESSANDRA RIZZO
Associated Press Writer
ROME (AP) — Venus Williams was taken to three sets in her opening match on Monday at the Italian Open, eventually beating Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 4-6, 6-2. But the 28-year-old American, who won the clay court event in 1999, said she didn't mind

the extra effort.

"I was OK with the match being a little longer," Williams said. "I just want to hit balls. In a way it's not too bad to go three sets."

Williams appeared in control of the match in the first set, firing eight aces and as many winners in 28 minutes. But as her service level dropped Safarova started playing deep

Venus makes winning start at Italian Open

powerful groundstrokes and broke Williams in the third game of the second set. Williams was unable to break back and Safarova served out the set 6-4.

"I just didn't get that break back," Williams said of the second set. "She played strong and she... is a talented player, so I have to give her credit." In the deciding set, the fourth-seeded Williams held serve in a crucial third game after saving four break points. She went on to break in the following game, as a forehand by the 22-year-old Czech player went wide, and then again to close out the match.

In the end, Williams had 22 winners, the same as Safarova, and 26 unforced errors to Safarova's 33. "We both played aggressive," Williams said. "She's just going for every shot, for the lines."

The match was a second-

round encounter as the top eight seeded players all have first-round byes in this warmup for the French Open, which begins in three weeks' time.

Williams had beaten Safarova in straight sets in their only previous match in 2006, which was also played in Rome.

Also advancing in another second-round match was Victoria Azarenka from Belarus, who had just won the first set 6-0 when her opponent Ayumi Morita of Japan retired with a thigh strain.

In first-round action, Alize Cornet of France, last year's runner up, defeated Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-3, 7-5, while Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Agnes Szavay of Hungary.

A-Rod HRs, plays 7 innings in field

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez hit a long homer, played seven innings in the field and drew a walk off Philadelphia's J.C. Romero on Monday in his latest extended spring training game.

The Yankees third baseman did not take questions after the game, which was played on the same day a book, "A-Rod: The Many Lives of Alex Rodriguez," was scheduled for release. As he was leaving, a smiling and upbeat Rodriguez said he "feels good."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi said it was possible Rodriguez could rejoin the team Friday, when New York starts a trip at Baltimore.

"Is Friday the day? I can't tell you," Girardi said in New York. "So much of it just depends on how he feels and when he believes that he's ready to go. I have not really put a date on it, because I want to see how he bounces back on Wednesday or even tomorrow. You know, if he bounces back on Wednesday, it's up to him. When he feels that he's ready, we're probably going to take him back."

Girardi said Rodriguez had slid on a pad but not on dirt, but that probably was sufficient for a return. Rodriguez is scheduled to play seven more innings Tuesday, and Girardi does not have to see him play nine before activating A-Rod.

The book, written by Selena Roberts, makes the case that Rodriguez most likely used steroids in high school and may have taken HGH while with the Yankees. The biography paints a portrait of a deeply insecure man trying to cope with being abandoned by his father and obsessed with becoming a superstar.

On to Preakness for Derby winner Mine That Bird

BALTIMORE (AP) — Mine That Bird is headed to the Preakness.

The trainer of the gelding who won the Kentucky Derby at 50-1 odds said his horse will run in the May 16 Preakness at Pimlico, the second leg of the Triple Crown.

"I've never been to Baltimore, but it looks like I won't be able to say that in a few days," trainer Bennie Woolley Jr. said Monday.

Woolley said the horse will remain at Churchill Downs in Louisville at least until May 12 before shipping to Baltimore. He jogged a mile at Churchill on Monday morning and will have light jogs each of the next two days.

Woolley said there are no plans for the horse to have a full workout before the Preakness.

Mine That Bird, ridden by Calvin Borel, won the Derby by 6 3/4 lengths over Pioneerof the Nile — the largest margin of victory since Assault in 1946.

On Sunday, a day after the big upset, Woolley said there's "no obligation" to go to the Preakness and added: "You've got to do what's best for the horse and the horse has got to come first."

And the horse has given every indication he came out of the race in good order.

"The Triple Crown is good for racing, and without the Derby winner, there is no chance to have one," he said.

The last Derby winner to skip the Preakness was an injured Grindstone in 1996. The last healthy Derby winner to miss it was Spend A Buck in 1985. Other Derby horses expected to take on Mine That Bird are fourth-place finisher Papa Clem and possibly Pioneerof the Nile, third-place Musket Man, Join in the Dance (seventh) and General Quarters (10th).

Potential newcomers include Delta Jackpot winner Big Drama, Withers winner Mr. Fantasy, Take the Points and Miner's Escape.



Calvin Borel rides Mine That Bird to a victory during the 135th Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs Saturday, May 2, 2009, in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

The Preakness is limited to 14 starters.

The big question, of course, is whether Mine That Bird can win the Preakness and set up a Triple Crown attempt in the Belmont Stakes on June 6. The last Triple Crown winner was Affirmed in 1978.

Borel said he'll be more than

happy to take a shot.

"He's plenty of horse," he said.

Pioneerof the Nile's trainer Bob Baffert had some advice for Woolley and owners Mark Allen and Leonard Blach on Sunday: if Mine That Bird is OK, go for it.

"This is a dream of a lifetime,"

Baffert said. "I hope he comes out of it well and they go and maybe he's for real. We're going to find out."

Last year, Big Brown won the Derby and the Preakness, but finished last in the Belmont after being pulled up on the turn for home.

Swiss go out despite beating U.S. 4-3



Ron Hainsey, center No 6, of the United States is congratulated by team members after scoring the third goal against Switzerland during their qualification match at the World Ice Hockey Championship match in Bern, Switzerland, Monday, May 4, 2009.

Associated Press

twice — but only found the winning goal 13 seconds into the extra period.

U.S. defenseman Ron Hainsey twice scored on long range power-play shots in the second period to help the U.S. avoid a regulation defeat which could have meant a quarterfinal match against Canada.

The Americans will face Finland in the last eight because the Finns could not beat Canada in regulation despite holding a 3-1 lead in the second period. That game in Zurich was 3-3 at the end of regulation and also went to OT.

Canada has won the Zurich-based group and will next play Latvia, the No. 4 seed from Bern which relied on the U.S. scoring at least a point against the Swiss.

Switzerland led in the first and second periods of an often bad-tempered match.

Swiss forward Julien Sprunger was wheeled off the rink and

taken to hospital for treatment to a neck injury after being sent into the boards by David Backes at 7:15 of the first.

Backes was ejected with a game misconduct call.

U.S. captain Dustin Brown was then called for roughing, gifting the Swiss a 5-on-3 chance.

Switzerland took almost the full two minutes of its two-man advantage to get the puck on goal, and scored when Andres Ambuhl scooped in the rebound from Robert Esche's save at 9:42.

The U.S. wasted a 5-on-3 late in the first, but tied the game on its next power play at 5:57 of the second.

Hainsey hit a slap shot from near the offensive blue line beating Swiss goalie Martin Gerber low to his left glove side.

The U.S. had a goal ruled out on video review before Swiss captain Mark Streit and U.S. forward Kyle Okposo were called for roughing.

Streit, the New York Islanders defenseman, was also penalized for fighting against Russia.

Switzerland led again at 11:03 when Romano Lemm was left alone between the circles and scored on a pass from behind the goal line.

Chris Higgins tied the game at 15:08 on a shot that squeezed through Gerber's glove.

The U.S. had its first lead at 3-2 on another two-man advantage in the final minute of the period. This time Hainsey scored high to Gerber's stick side with 12 seconds left.

Switzerland tied it at 3-3 midway through the third when Martin Pluss finished off a sweeping move down the left wing.

The U.S. had two empty-net chances late on but Jason Blake hit a post and had a goal disallowed for offside.

Gerber had 21 saves for the win, and Esche also had 21 stops.

GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer
BERN, Switzerland (AP)
— Switzerland scored a 4-3 overtime victory against the United States on Monday

but was still eliminated from the ice hockey world championship.

The host nation needed a victory in regulation to advance — and held the lead

Hatton's dad says beaten son won't rush to quit



Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, delivers the final knock-down punch to British boxer Ricky Hatton during the second round of their junior welterweight boxing match Saturday, May 2, 2009, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Ricky Hatton's father said his son won't hurry a decision whether to retire after his second-round knockout defeat to Manny Pacquiao.

After being knocked down twice in the opening round,

the 30-year-old Briton was flattened by Pacquiao's left hook in Las Vegas on Saturday for his second defeat in 47 fights.

After spending several minutes on his back in the ring, the two-time light-welterweight world

champion had to be taken to a hospital for a precautionary brain scan, which revealed no damage.

"He's perfectly all right," Ray Hatton told BBC Radio Five on Sunday. "They've checked him out. He's had all the tests and everything. He's not got a mark on him."

The loss may leave a lasting mark on the fighter's confidence, however, with Hatton's flimsy defense making him an easy target. Ray Hatton said his son, whose other loss was a 10th-round knockout defeat to Floyd Mayweather Jr. in December 2007, would now have to consider whether to carry on. "Obviously, we will support him in whatever he does and we'll leave that with him," Hatton said. "At this moment in time, he's probably got a few mixed feelings about it. He'll make that decision whichever way he wants to and the family will support him."

"I don't think he would let anybody make that decision for him. He would make it himself, that's one thing I am absolutely certain of. He's very, very strong willed."

Ray Hatton said his son did not need to continue boxing for the money, and that the fighter was convinced he had caught Pacquiao with some good punches before he was knocked out.

"He just said, 'The old heart ruled the head again, dad; steaming in, got my warning signs in the first round. Set off OK at the start of the second round, caught Manny with a few shots. Really worried Manny a little bit. Manny was just throwing wild shots.' He said, 'Then the heart ruled the head again and I went steaming in.'"

Hatton's trainer Floyd Mayweather Sr. called on him to quit.

"I would suggest he retire. At the end of the day, it's his

decision," Mayweather Sr. said. "He tried twice. He failed twice. He lost to my son and to lose to someone below that, it's time to leave the ring. He made a good profit. Sometimes you have to go when your prime is still there."

Carl Froch, who knocked out Jermain Taylor a week ago to defend his WBC super-middleweight title, also hopes Hatton retires.

"I think he's certainly achieved over and above what anybody expected from him when he turned professional," Froch said. "He's achieved an unbelievable status, he's up there with the best fighters in the world. He's achieved all he can achieve."

"I have to say, if I was in his position after last night's performance, I would definitely retire. But I can't speak for another fighter. He will decide what he's going to do."

NBA MVP

Continued from page 12

All these guys laid down the path for guys like myself and Kobe Bryant, Chris Paul, Dwight Howard and Dwyane Wade to name a few," James said in accepting the award at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

James credited his teammates, who were present with coach Mike Brown to see him accept the award, for raising their games in the Cavaliers' best season ever.

"Individual accolades come when team success happens," James said. "You look at those 14 guys over there, I got the award because of them. They put in the work."

At 24 years, 106 days on the final day of the regular season, James is the youngest player to win the award since Moses Malone

(24 years, 16 days) in 1978-79. Wes Unseld was 23 when he won it in 1968-69.

"I'm 24 years old. To be up here and win this MVP award, I never thought it would happen this fast. I always dreamed about celebrating championships with teammates," James said.

"It takes a lot of sweat," said Cleveland general manager Danny Ferry. "I'm sure he did a lot of sweating right here. I've been fortunate enough to watch him sweat the past four years when no one else was around. I just want to acknowledge that and give it a round of applause."

James vied all season for MVP honors with Bryant and Wade. The three played on the U.S. gold medalist Olympic team last summer and seemed to upstage each other nightly.

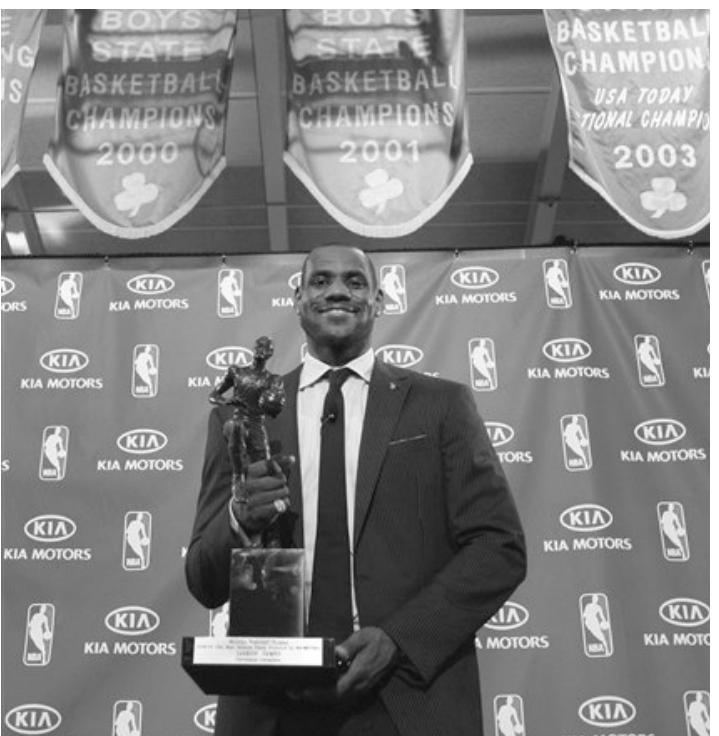
"He deserved it," Wade said. "I said all year, I thought LeBron was the MVP of this

league. He's a guy who every year is going to be in that conversation. ... He showed it all year, especially with his team's success."

He started a career-high 81 games and set personal bests in field-goal (49) and free-throw (79) percentages as well as blocks (93). James became the second player to post five straight seasons of at least 27 points, six rebounds and six assists. The other is Oscar Robertson, whose extraordinarily versatile game is the one to which James' is most often compared.

James nearly averaged a triple-double — 32 points, 11.3 rebounds and 7.5 assists — as the top-seeded Cavaliers breezed through the first round of the playoffs, sweeping the Detroit Pistons in four games. Cleveland will host the Atlanta Hawks in Game 1 on Tuesday.

It's no surprise James would select his high school for the



Under the banners for his high school state championship teams, Cleveland Cavaliers LeBron James accepts the NBA Most Valuable Player award during a ceremony at James' alma mater, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, in Akron, Ohio on Monday, May 4, 2009.

Associated Press

ceremony. It's where he won three state basketball championships and where he burst onto the national scene, becoming a Sports Illustrated cover subject at just 17 years old. He

announced plans to skip college in the Fighting Irish's quaint gym and recently filmed a "60 Minutes" interview there, where his retired No. 23 jersey hangs on a wall.



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Millonario conservador y educado en EEUU gana presidencia de Panamá

CIUDAD DE PANAMA (Reuters) - El magnate de los supermercados Ricardo Martinelli ganó el domingo las elecciones presidenciales de Panamá, frenando una racha de victorias de la izquierda en Latinoamérica con promesas de combatir la pobreza y el desempleo.

El empresario conservador obtenía una amplia ventaja de 60.62 por ciento de votos frente al 36.97 por ciento de la candidata izquierdista Balbina Herrera, del oficialista Partido Revolucionario Democrático (PRD), cuando se habían contabilizado más del 80 por ciento de las mesas electorales.

El presidente del tribunal electoral, Erasmo Pinilla, llamó por teléfono a Martinelli, del partido Cambio Democrático (CD) para declararlo ganador en una conversación que fue transmitida por televisión y en la que el vencedor prometió gobernar con la oposición.

“No podemos seguir teniendo un país con 40 por ciento de panameños pobres, un país donde el sistema de transporte, el de salud, y educación no funciona”, dijo Martinelli en su primera conferencia de prensa después de anunciada su victoria.



El candidato presidencial Ricardo Martinelli (izquierda) y su compañero de fórmula Juan Carlos Varela saludan a sus partidarios luego de ganar las elecciones en Ciudad de Panamá, may 3 2009.

REUTERS/Stringer

Martinelli ganó adeptos sobre Herrera en momentos en que la crisis global originada en Estados Unidos ha debilitado el comercio internacional del que se alimenta el canal de Panamá, que une los océanos Pacífico y Atlántico.

Herrera reconoció su derrota. “Voy a respetar la decisión que el pueblo panameño ha determinado en este momento”, dijo ante simpatizantes. “Ahora es que nos toca vigilar bien las cosas

que nos prometieron”, agregó. El discurso de Martinelli ofreciendo crear empleos atrajo a muchos pobres - antiguamente la base de poder del PRD- así como su promesa de aplicarle “mano dura” al crimen en un país afectado por la violencia del narcotráfico y las pandillas.

Bajo el mandato del centroizquierdista Martín Torrijos, Panamá alcanzó tasas de crecimiento hasta de dos dígitos, apoyada en gran

medida en el canal, por donde transita el 5 por ciento del comercio mundial.

CRISIS GOLPEA A HERRERA

Pero la crisis hará que Panamá sólo crezca este año alrededor del 3 por ciento, según analistas, por la caída en el comercio internacional pero también por una menor demanda en el sector construcción, otro rama pujante.

Afuera de un centro de

convenciones a donde Martinelli fue a reunirse con miembros del tribunal, Mariela de Bahraona, una ex auditora de bancos de 54 años, estaba feliz por el triunfo del magnate bajo un paraguas con el logo del CD.

“Martinelli ha hecho la propuesta que necesitamos los panameños (...) Sé que no nos va a defraudar”, dijo.

El candidato ha prometido controlar la inflación, que se aceleró en el último año aún en una economía dolarizada. Pero incluso algunos de sus votantes tienen dudas de que lo haga, siendo dueño de supermercados.

“Como él es comerciante de comestibles no le interesa bajar los precios porque no va a ganar en estos cinco años que será presidente”, dijo Gabriel Tuñón, un contador de 59 años.

Herrera perdió simpatizantes por el impacto de la crisis sobre la popularidad del gobierno, pero también porque muchos desconfiaron de sus antiguos vínculos con el ex dictador Manuel Noriega, enemigo de Estados Unidos.

Martinelli, educado en Estados Unidos e hijo de inmigrantes italianos, ha prometido aumentar el gasto público construyendo un tren subterráneo en Ciudad de Panamá y apoyar la compra de vivienda de la gente pobre para mantener a flote la industria de la construcción.

La victoria de Martinelli marca un alto en la tendencia política de la región, en donde desde finales de 1990 la izquierda comenzó a ganar terreno con gobernantes radicales y opositores a Estados Unidos, como el venezolano Hugo Chávez, y otros moderados, como el presidente de Brasil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

El último triunfo izquierdista fue el de Mauricio Funes en El Salvador, quien asumirá el 1 de junio por el ex guerrillero Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN).

La influenza H1N1 comienza a darle tregua a México

MEXICO DF (Reuters) - La epidemia de influenza mortal comenzó a darle una tregua a México, que esta semana podría poner de nuevo sus motores en marcha tras varios días de parálisis en su vida pública y en parte de su economía.

Aunque el Gobierno dijo que ya ha pasado lo peor y los casos de infectados se han estabilizado, aún no se declara vencedor en la lucha contra el virus -mezcla de cepas porcinas, aviarias y humanas- y asegura que no se pueden descartar brotes posteriores.

México, con 22 muertes confirmadas hasta el momento, es el epicentro de la epidemia, pero en el mundo se han extendido los temores a una pandemia de influenza H1N1 mientras siguen surgiendo casos en países tan lejanos como Nueva Zelanda.

“Estamos confirmado que el virus entró a una etapa de estabilización y que, incluso, los casos comienzan a reducirse”, dijo el presidente mexicano, Felipe Calderón, en una entrevista transmitida el domingo por la noche.

“No cantamos victoria, pero si esto sigue así (...) creo que

el miércoles podremos recuperar (...) la vida normal de los mexicanos”, agregó.

México cerró escuelas, restaurantes, cines, bares, discotecas, empresas, museos y hasta iglesias para intentar frenar el contagio, y ha exhortado a la población a no salir de sus casas si no es necesario. Los pocos que se veían en las calles caminaban cubiertos con mascarillas.

Las autoridades mexicanas han registrado unos 590 casos de infectados con el virus en todo el país, pero la mayoría se encuentra en la Ciudad de México y sus alrededores, una caótica zona urbana donde viven unos 20 millones de personas.

La Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) llamó a incrementar la vigilancia sanitaria en humanos y animales en el mundo y dijo que 18 países han reportado 898 infectados.

Pero esa cifra no incluyó los reportes de casos confirmados en algunos países.

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